

**441—172.21(234) Provider selection.** Family safety, risk, and permanency services shall be available on a statewide basis and shall be purchased through a formal competitive selection process according to the requirements of 11—Chapters 106 and 107.

**172.21(1)** The department shall issue a request for proposals at the state level to seek applications from organizations interested in providing family safety, risk, and permanency services within specific geographic areas.

**172.21(2)** The request for proposals shall specify:

- a.* The minimum qualifications and requirements for consideration as a provider;
- b.* The scope of services to be purchased; and
- c.* The duration of contracts to be awarded.

**172.21(3)** The department shall select one or more providers within each department service area based on service needs and the number and quality of provider proposals.

**172.21(4)** When multiple providers are selected to serve the same geographic area, the department shall implement a fair and equitable case referral process.